

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6219

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 27053

STADIS////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATION

REF: STATE 304891

JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE ON LEAVE AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE
SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO SHELDON VANCE:

BEGIN QUOTE. I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM YOUR LETTER
OF DECEMBER 10 THAT THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE FORWARDED A MEMO TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER
ALLEGING A LACK OF COORDINATION IN OUR EFFORTS TO CURB
THE FLOW OF DRUGS FROM THAILAND TO THE UNITED STATES.
DEA IS PREPARING A DETAILED COMMENTARY ON MR. TODD'S
MEMORANDUM. THIS IS TAKING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF
TIME, BUT DEA IS HIGHLY CONCERNED BY THE IMPLICATIONS
OF THIS MEMORANDUM AND WANTS TO DO A THOROUGH JOB. I WILL
FORWARD A COPY OF THE DEA PAPER TO YOU AS SOON AS IT IS
COMPLETED. MEANWHILE I WOULD LIKE TO GET SEVERAL POINTS
ON THE RECORD.

FIRST, I REGRET THAT MR. TODD AND HIS COLLEAGUES UNDERTOOK
AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS NATURE ON THEIR MOST RECENT
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VISIT TO BANGKOK WITHOUT DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH ME OR

THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION. WE COULD HAVE SHED CONSIDERABLE LIGHT ON THIS SUBJECT AND AVOIDED A NUMBER OF ERRORS IN THE IGA MEMORANDUM.

TO CITE ONE OMISSION, THERE IS NO INDICATION IN MR. TODD'S MEMORANDUM THAT HE TALKED WITH OFFICIALS OF CID AND OSI, THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES IN THAILAND, OR THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THESE AGENCIES PLAY IN INVESTIGATIONS ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. IN THAILAND, AS IS THE CASE WORLD WIDE, DEA WORKS PRIMARILY WITH OTHER INVESTIGATIVE AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. CID WAS PRIVY TO ALL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEA ON THE NARCOTICS RING OPERATING AMONG ACTIVE AND RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL. IN FACT, A SIGNIFICANT PART OF DEA'S INFORMATION ACTUALLY CAME FROM CID. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CID TO KEEP SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS INFORMED OF MATTERS UNDER INVESTIGATION. IF THERE IS A BREAKDOWN IN COORDINATION--AND I AM INCLUDED TO THINK THERE WAS INITIALLY--IT WAS PROBABLY MORE BETWEEN CID AND MACHTAI THEN BETWEEN DEA AND THE U.S. MILITARY.

MR. TODD'S MEMORANDUM ALSO IMPLIES THAT DEA HAD INFORMATION ON MILITARY PERSONNEL SUSPECTED OF MOVING HEROIN TO THE UNITED STATES WHICH WAS NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO U.S. MILITARY. ONE EXAMPLE CITED CONCERNS A U.S. SERVICEMAN WHO HAD ALREADY ROTATED TO THE UNITED STATES AND WHO HAD BEEN FOUND TO POSSESS FURNITURE WITH SECRET COMPARTMENTS CONTAINING HEROIN TRACES. ACTUALLY, NO INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE ON THIS INDIVIDUAL UNTIL JASPER MYRICK WAS ARRESTED ON OCTOBER 17. A LEAD DEVELOPED AFTER THIS ARREST INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN EARLIER SHIPMENT TO FT. GORDON, GEORGIA BY A SERVICEMAN NAMED BROWN. LEADS CONCERNING THIS EARLIER SHIPMENT WERE ACTUALLY INVESTIGATED BY CID WORKING WITH THE U.S. MILITARY AUTHORITIES. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE LEADS WERE TOO LATE TO EFFECT SEIZURE OF THE HEROIN, BUT THIS WAS NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF COORDINATION. GENERAL ADERHOLT APPARENTLY BELIEVED DEA HAD INFORMATION ON BROWN, BUT SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION HAS SHOWN THAT THIS WAS A DIFFERENT BROWN WHO WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION BUT ON WHOM CONFIDENTIAL

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NO DEROGATORY INFORMATION WAS FOUND. AS NOTED ABOVE, ONLY IN MID-OCTOBER DID DEA AND CID GET A LEAD ON THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL.

I AM NOT TRYING TO COVER UP ANY LACK OF COORDINATION WHICH MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. AS NOTED EARLIER, I BELIEVE THERE WERE SOME SHORTCOMINGS, AND I ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT EVERYONE MUST WORK CLOSELY

TOGETHER IN OUR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS. I AM
CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT MR. TODD'S MEMORANDUM PAINTS THE
PICTURE TOO DARKLY AND IS BASED ON SOME MISLEADING
INFORMATION. I WOULD HOPE TO HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK WITH
HIM ABOUT THIS AND ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH CONCERN HIM THE
NEXT TIME HE IS IN BANGKOK. END QUOTE.
MASTERS

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